

Owatonna Human Rights Commission
Minutes

The Owatonna Human Rights Commission (OHRC) met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in the Second Floor Conference Room at City Hall. The meeting was accessible via Microsoft TEAMS at Call-in Number 507-242-3225 and Conference ID 882 181 194#. Commission Vice Chairman Cords called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with Commissioners Cords and Emanuelson; City Administrator Busse and Administrative Specialist Jeanette Clawson present. Attending virtually were Commissioners Gillespie, Worden and Vanoosbree and Adnan Abdullahi. Commissioners Susie Effertz and Jim Gunderson were unable to attend.

Commissioner Gunderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the August 10, 2020 OHRC Meeting were reviewed; Commissioner Cords made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Worden seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, voting aye were Commissioners Cords, Gillespie, Emanuelson, Gillespie, Worden and Vanoosbree; the motion carried.

During Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Vanoosbree commented the Better Together members and Cultural Diversity Network members plan to organize as one entity as they consider opportunities for future community engagements.

During Old Business, Commissioner Vanoosbree commented the Reading Circles have been meeting to discuss their chosen books; a large group summit is planned for Saturday, October 10th at the Middle School. They plan to offer three breakout sessions mindful of COVID requirements for social distancing and facial masks; Commissioner Vanoosbree will send invites to this meeting. Commissioner Emanuelson commented he just completed the book, "How to be an Anti-Racist" and also questions what the next step should be to not lose ground within the community. Commissioner Emanuelson asked if there has been any effort to recognize leaders within minority groups of the community. Mr. Abdullahi commented School Superintendent Elstad was at the mosque on Friday and several younger people stayed to listen to his comments. Older community members seem hesitant to participate, previous meetings happened when problems occurred, and large group meetings were involved. Commissioner Vanoosbree suggested reaching out to make contact in a less formal setting and at times when there is not a problem. Mr. Abdullahi suggested holding a meeting at the Manthey Park Basketball Courts. There was no discussion on Agenda Item for Proposed Training Seminar or for the OHRC Newsletter.

During New Business, Commissioner Emanuelson offered to prepare an article encouraging voter participation, he will prepare and send for commissioner review and comments. Commission Cords gave a brief overview of the OHRC purpose and responsibilities. Mr. Abdullahi said he wants to assist the commission educate the community and help others. Commissioner Emanuelson recommended Mayor Kuntz be advised of Mr. Abdullahi interest in the OHRC.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 12th at 5:30 p.m. and will have an option to access by TEAMS.

At 5:43 p.m., Commissioner Worden made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Emanuelson seconded the motion and with all members present voting aye, the meeting was adjourned.